

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of running and setting a liner hanger in a wellbore, comprising:

providing a liner with the liner hanger, the liner hanger connected to the liner and having a plurality of relief grooves disposed about the circumference of a body of the liner hanger;

positioning the liner coaxially within a portion of a tubular string located in the wellbore such that the liner hanger and tubular string overlap, the tubular string having an inner diameter which is larger than an outer diameter of the liner;

positioning an expander tool within the liner proximate the liner hanger; and

expanding the liner hanger such that an outer surface of the liner hanger is in frictional contact with an inner surface of the tubular string to support the weight of the liner.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the relief grooves are non-linear.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein expanding the liner hanger causes an elastomer disposed in the relief grooves to seal an annular area between the liner hanger and the tubular string.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein profile cuts intersect the relief grooves.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein expanding the liner hanger causes gripping members on the outer surface of the liner hanger to engage the tubular string.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising cementing the liner in the wellbore.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein expanding the liner hanger causes gripping members initially recessed at least partially within the body of the liner hanger to protrude from the outer surface of the liner hanger and engage the tubular string.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein expanding the liner hanger closes profile cuts intersecting the relief grooves.
29. (Previously Presented) A method of sealing an annulus in a wellbore, comprising:
- providing a packer having a tubular body with relief grooves formed on the tubular body and profile cuts intersecting the relief grooves;
 - positioning the packer within the wellbore;
 - positioning an expander tool within the packer; and
 - expanding the packer such that an outer surface of the packer is in sealing contact with an inner surrounding surface to seal the annulus between the packer and the inner surrounding surface.
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein expanding the packer causes a pliable material disposed in at least a portion of the relief grooves and profile cuts to seal the annulus.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein expanding the packer causes gripping members on the outer surface of the packer to engage the inner surrounding surface.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein expanding the packer closes the profile cuts.

33. (Previously Presented) A liner hanger for engaging a tubular string in a wellbore, comprising:

a tubular body having an inner surface and an outer surface, the tubular body being expandable radially outward into contact with an inner wall of the tubular string by the application of an outwardly directed force supplied to the inner surface of the tubular body;

grooves formed on the tubular body; and

at least one profile cut formed in the outer surface of the tubular body.

34. (Previously Presented) The liner hanger of claim 33, further comprising a gripping member formed on the outer surface of the tubular body for further increasing friction between the liner hanger and tubular string upon expansion of the tubular body.

35. (Previously Presented) The liner hanger of claim 34, wherein the gripping member comprises raised members extending outward from the outer surface of the body.

36. (Previously Presented) The liner hanger of claim 33, wherein the at least one profile cut has a depth less than a depth of the grooves.

37. (Previously Presented) The liner hanger of claim 33, wherein the grooves are formed in a pattern and the pattern of the grooves is a continuous pattern about the circumference of the body, the grooves intersecting to form a plurality of shapes.

38. (Previously Presented) The liner hanger of claim 37, wherein the at least one profile cut is formed on the surface of the plurality of shapes, whereby the at least one profile cut intersects the grooves.
39. (Previously Presented) The liner hanger of claim 33, wherein the grooves are substantially filled with a pliable material.
40. (Previously Presented) The liner hanger of claim 33, wherein the at least one profile cut is substantially filled with a pliable material.